

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multi-purpose mat having open and folded configurations,  
comprising:

5                   a base;  
                  a plurality of sidewalls disposed about a periphery of the base;

and

                  a first resilient flexible slat disposed within one of the sidewalls  
and a second resilient flexible slat disposed within the remaining sidewalls,  
10           wherein the slats provide means for reinforcing the sidewalls, and whereby the  
          slats provide a spring-like effect that allows the mat to automatically rollout into  
the open configuration from the folded configuration;

                  wherein the sidewalls fold about the periphery of the base,  
whereby the sidewalls move from a position generally adjacent to the base to a  
15           position generally perpendicular to and extending generally upwardly from the  
base when the mat is moved from the folded configuration to the open  
configuration.

2. The mat of claim 1, including an inwardly extending rim  
20           positioned along an upper portion of the sidewalls.

3. The mat of claim 1, wherein the base includes a plurality of  
layers, wherein at least one of the layers is water impermeable.

25           4. The mat of claim 3, wherein the base includes a bottom  
non-slip surface.

5. The mat of claim 1, including means for holding the mat in the  
folded configuration.

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6. The mat of claim 5, wherein the means for holding the mat in the folded configuration includes fasteners for securing the mat in the closed position.

5                   7. The mat of claim 6, wherein the fasteners include a buckle.

8. The mat of claim 6, wherein the fasteners include hook and loop fasteners.

10                  9. The mat of claim 1, including a layer of material removably connected to a top surface of the base.

10. The mat of claim 9, wherein the layer of material is a towel connected to the base, wherein the base and towel include mating fasteners.

15                  11. The mat of claim 1, including at least one pocket removably connected to at least one sidewall, wherein the at least one sidewall and at least one pocket include mating fasteners.

20                  12 A multi-purpose mat having open and folded configurations, comprising:

a base;

a plurality of sidewalls disposed about a periphery of the base;  
an inwardly extending rim positioned along an upper portion of

25   the sidewalls;

means for holding the mat in the folded configuration including fasteners for securing the mat in the closed position; and

30                  a first resilient flexible slat disposed within one of the sidewalls  
and a second resilient flexible slat disposed within the remaining sidewalls,  
wherein the slats provide means for reinforcing the sidewalls, and whereby the  
slats provide a spring-like effect that allows the mat to automatically rollout into  
the open configuration from the folded configuration;

wherein the sidewalls fold about the periphery of the base,  
whereby the sidewalls move from a position generally adjacent to the base to a  
position generally perpendicular to and extending generally upwardly from the  
base when the mat is moved from the folded configuration to the open  
5 configuration.

13. The mat of claim 12, wherein the base includes a plurality of  
layers, wherein at least one of the layers is water impermeable, and a bottom  
non-slip surface.

14. The mat of claim 12, wherein the fasteners include a buckle.

15. The mat of claim 12, wherein the fasteners include hook and  
loop fasteners.

16. The mat of claim 12, including a towel removably connected  
to a top surface of the base, the base and towel including mating fasteners.

17. The mat of claim 12, including at least one pocket removably  
connected to at least one sidewall, wherein the at least one sidewall and at  
least one pocket include mating fasteners.

18. A multi-purpose mat having open and folded configurations,  
comprising:

a base including a plurality of layers, wherein at least one of the  
layers is water impermeable, and a bottom non-slip surface;

a plurality of sidewalls disposed about a periphery of the base;  
an inwardly extending rim positioned along an upper portion of  
the sidewalls;

means for holding the mat in the folded configuration including  
fasteners for securing the mat in the closed position;

a towel removably connected to a top surface of the base, the base and towel including mating fasteners;

at least one pocket removably connected to at least one sidewall, wherein the at least one sidewall and at least one pocket include mating

5 fasteners; and

a first resilient flexible slat disposed within one of the sidewalls and a second resilient flexible slat disposed within the remaining sidewalls, wherein the slats provide means for reinforcing the sidewalls, and whereby the slats provide a spring-like effect that allows the mat to automatically rollout into

10 the open configuration from the folded configuration;

wherein the sidewalls fold about the periphery of the base, whereby the sidewalls move from a position generally adjacent to the base to a position generally perpendicular to and extending generally upwardly from the base when the mat is moved from the folded configuration to the open

15 configuration.